



Remarks

**The Honorable
Ambassador Constance A. Morella
U.S. Mission to the OECD**

“Going for Growth 2007”

**The OECD Washington Center Breakfast Series
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It's a great pleasure to be here at the OECD Washington Center's Breakfast Series once again, this time to launch the OECD's "Going for Growth 2007."

I'm particularly pleased to be in the company of my dear friend and colleague Angel Gurría, the OECD's Secretary General since June 2006. Angel may be new to this position but he's no stranger to the OECD itself, having been Mexico's former Finance and Foreign Ministers, and he's no stranger to the United States. Angel has many friends in Congress and in the private sector here and he's a tremendous champion of the United States and its values on the international stage. I want to thank him for personally coming to the United States to launch the 2007 edition of "Going for Growth."

It's also wonderful to see so many of our colleagues in Washington here today and I want to thank you for showing us your support: Peter Chase, Shannon Sorvano (DAS, U.S. Dept of Housing & Urban Development) Hugh Stevenson (Deputy Director, U.S. FTC) (may list others) ... etc.

I also want to thank the Secretary General and Jean-Philippe Cotis, the OECD's Senior Economist, for making the third edition of "Going for Growth" such a success. This was an idea that was first raised by former Council of Economic Advisers Chairman, Glen Hubbard, when he served as Chair of the Economic Policy Committee. Jean-Philippe and his staff took the germ of an idea and turned it into a workable report card, a "No-Country-Left-Behind" program to parallel the United States' "No-Child-Left-Behind" Act.

The United States is the benchmark against which all other countries are measured. Encouraging the resumption or the acceleration of the process of catching up to U.S. per capita GDP through structural reforms in continental Europe and Japan, in particular, is what this exercise is all about. While GDP per capita is not a perfect measure, OECD work in the previous issue of 'Going for Growth' re-confirmed it as the best proxy for economic success or failure.

Another feature of 'Going for Growth' is that every country, including the United States, has the same number of areas where they can improve. It is no surprise that two of the indicator-based recommendations for the United States in 'Going for Growth' -- improving educational achievements and restraining health care costs -- are priorities for the Administration as well.

With that, I'll turn the floor over to Mr. Gurria and Mr. Cotis who will talk more about the specifics of the OECD diagnosis and the recommendations.

Angel...